

GDMS to Retrofit Knifefish Surface Mine Countermeasure UUVs for Navy



A Knifefish unmanned undersea vehicle (UUV) training model undergoes crane operations aboard the Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport vessel USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1) in 2019. *U.S. NAVY / Master-at-Arms 1st Class Alexander Knapp*
FAIRFAX, Va. – General Dynamics Mission Systems announced June 7 it was awarded a \$72.8 million contract from the U.S. Navy to retrofit five Block 0 Knifefish surface mine countermeasure unmanned underwater vehicle (SMCM UUV) systems, which comprises 10 Knifefish SMCM vehicles. The retrofit requirements will enhance Knifefish operations at deeper depths, identify more complex target environments and provide more precise localization.

Once complete, all 10 Knifefish Block 0 UUVs will be upgraded with the new requirements integrated and redelivered in the Block 1 configuration.

Knifefish SMCM is a medium-class mine countermeasure UUV intended for deployment from the Navy's littoral combat ship and other Navy vessels of opportunity. Knifefish SMCM will reduce risk to personnel by operating within minefields as an off-board sensor while the host ship stays outside the minefield boundaries.

"General Dynamics Mission Systems is honored to extend our support to the U.S. Navy with this increased capability on all five Knifefish SMCM systems," said Carlo Zaffanella, vice president and general manager at General Dynamics Mission Systems. "We are proud to provide the Navy with advanced, state-of-the-art unmanned underwater vehicles, and we are dedicated to delivering this technology safely and quickly to

our sailors.”